



Make an Ant Farm

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TOOLS:

- [bucket \(1\)](#)
- [garden shovel \(1\)](#)



PARTS:

- [A large bottle or a small aquarium and a smaller bottle or container to fit inside the first one \(1\)](#)
[allowing about 1" of space between the two containers. Both containers need secure, tight-fitting lids.](#)
- [garden soil \(1\)](#)
- [funnel or paper cone \(1\)](#)
- [construction paper and scotch tape \(1\)](#)
- [cotton ball \(1\)](#)
- [honey \(1\)](#)
- [ants \(1\)](#)
[\(preferably large black ants from your yard as smaller species are difficult to see\)](#)

SUMMARY

Make an ant farm and give your child a no-cost educational pet. A fun way to teach entomology and how an ecosystem works. It can also be addictive as you watch the the ants

going about the business of building a new home.

Step 1 — Make an Ant Farm



- Place the smaller glass container that you have chosen inside the larger container. The purpose of the smaller container is purely to take up space and to encourage the ants to build their tunnels against the outside glass for easy viewing.

Step 2



- Locate an ant colony in your yard and dig carefully in the area where you see the most ants. Transfer some soft soil, with the ants, into a bucket. Try to find some larger ants or a queen ant with wings, along with eggs and larvae.


Step 3



- 3. Using a paper cone or funnel, gently add soil and the smaller worker ants to the space between the two containers. Add the queen, eggs and larvae last, sliding them gently down the funnel to rest on the soil. The worker ants will quickly begin to relocate their queen and her offspring in their new home.

Step 4



- CAUTION: Some ants bite, so keep your child away  from exposure to the ants while you work. Ants will climb even glass walls, so you'll need to securely cap your container. Punch air holes in the lid of the larger container, but make the hole openings too small to allow ants to escape.

Step 5

- Once you have the ants in place, put the lid on the container. Make a paper sleeve, covering the container from the bottom to the top of the soil. This darkens the ant farm and recreates an underground environment. Your ants will begin working immediately.

Step 6



- Ants appreciate a drop of honey, some sugar, or bread dipped in sugar water, and tiny bits of fruit or vegetables. Very, very small amounts will do; you don't want the food going mouldy in the bottle. Ants get water mainly from their food; however, every couple of days you can add a cottonball soaked in water to supplement the supply. Be careful not to knock the bottle over or shake it up; this will destroy the new ant farm.

Step 7



- To view your ant farm, remove the paper sleeve. Make notes about the ants' progress each day. This would make a neat science project if your child is studying entomology, nature, or ecosystems.

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